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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,535	12/19/2003	Gary A. KNEEZEL	112222	1534
27074	7590	11/09/2006		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC. P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER MENON, KRISHNAN S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1723	

DATE MAILED: 11/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary

Applicant has filed an appeal brief on the final action of 5/22/06. Claims are for an internal fluid filter, and contain product-by-process limitation of "... passages etched into..." in claim 1 and "formed by etching" in claim 26, which applicant argues, would distinguish the claims over the applied prior art, because the applied prior art would not have the specific structure created by the etching process, like "orientation dependent chemical etching". However, applicant's disclosure and the claim language would not support this argument. Therefore, in this examiner-initiated interview, it was suggested that applicant amend the independent claims to include specific language that would distinguish the claims over the prior art; and three options are recommended:

(1) Amend the claims to include: "internal microfluidic filter" instead of 'internal fluid filter'

(2) Add to the claims "wherein the passages are etched by orientation-dependent chemical etching"

(3) Add to the claims "wherein the filter material is crystal silicon or other material compatible with orientation-dependent chemical etching"


Applicant requested time to consider the suggestion. No agreement was reached.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krishnan S. Menon whose telephone number is 571-272-1143. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L. Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Krishnan S Menon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723